LITHUANIA'S SECURITY AGENCY SEEKS TO INTENSIFY BATTLE AGAINST CORRUPTION

VILNIUS, Aug 07, BNS - The Lithuanian National Security Department intends to create a special anti-corruption division to intensify the struggle against officials involved in criminal activities. When large-scale tobacco and alcohol smuggling attempts are disclosed and the organizers are arrested, "a number of intercessors, sometimes even quite high-ranking, try to stop the investigation or at least to hamper it," the department's assistant director, Kazys Pednycia, told the daily Tiesa.

OPPOSITION LEADER LINKS DESECRATION OF JEWISH GRAVES TO LITHUANIA'S NATO BID

VILNIUS, Aug 07, BNS - On Monday, Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis linked the recent desecrations of Jewish graves to Lithuania's bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Five gravestones were daubed with yellow paint in the incident. One carried a Nazi slogan saying "Juden raus", meaning Jews go away. Landsbergis said that similar desecrations had also spread in Germany before it joined NATO. The KGB later admitted its responsibility for the attacks. The hooligans who desecrated the graves must have been instructed that it was the yellow color to be used on the graves, and that the Nazi slogan had to be written, Landsbergis said.

POLAND DEPORTS 33 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO LITHUANIA. Deputy Director of the Lithuanian Migration Department Almantas Gavėnas on 7 August announced that the Polish authorities deported 33 illegal immigrants from Asian countries to Lithuania three days earlier, BNS reported. The immigrants are being held at a detention center in Marijampole. Lithuania, in turn, will deport the immigrants, , to the countries from which they entered Lithuania. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LITHUANIA'S HARD-CURRENCY RESERVES "MORE THAN SUFFICIENT." Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius told a press conference on 10 August that because of "more than sufficient" reserves of gold and hard currencies, the value of the litas will remain stable, BNS reported. He said the reserves are worth almost $700 million, exceeding the amount necessary to cover all the litai in circulation by $130 million. Slezevicius also noted that the per capita reserves of Lithuania were larger than those of Poland. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.